

It resembles somewhat, a large, very untidy Sunbird's nest. The egg is smooth, shiny, and measures  $19 \times 15$  mm.

It is of interest to recall the fact that birds from the Amani Range collected by Moreau were originally assigned to the race *S. c. medianus*, but were subsequently identified as *S. c. suahelicus* Grote. There is, indeed, a similarity between *suahelicus* and *medianus*, but they are distinct; however, the differences between them are not so great as between either of them and the race now described. The type and paratypes are in my collection.

(2) ***Smithornis capensis chyulu***, subsp. nov.

*Description*.—Nearest to *S. c. suahelicus* in point of size and general coloration, but differing from that race in having the basal half of the ear-coverts dirty white, and forming a patch; in having the dorsal black marks more conspicuous, thus larger, whilst the white sub-area is more extended.

*Distribution*.—The Chyulu Range.

*Type*.—Male Chyulu Range, 5000 feet, 23. iv. 1938, in the Coryndon Museum.

*Remarks*.—Four birds were noted in a patch of *Catha edulis*. The breeding season was over and gonads were soft.

### Races of Black-headed Babbler in Ceylon.

Mr. HUGH WHISTLER forwarded the following note on the races of the Black-headed Babbler in Ceylon:—

Legge ('Birds of Ceylon,' p. 507), treating of the bird which he called the Ceylon Wren-Babbler (*Alcippe nigrifrons*), and listed as peculiar to Ceylon, pointed out that there was a marked difference in the tint of the upper surface according to the locality which it inhabits. Birds from the south of the island and from the Western Province (that is the low country wet zone) are rusty-brown in colour above, whilst birds from the hill zone and the low country dry zone are decidedly olivaceous on the corresponding parts. The two types of coloration are figured by Legge in a coloured plate. The occurrence of two races in the dry and wet zones respectively in Ceylon is a feature of many species in the island, and an exact parallel as regards colours is found, as Legge remarked, in the Scimitar-Babbler (*Pomatorhinus horsfieldi*). The difference pointed out by Legge has been confirmed by 29 specimens

collected in different parts of the island in the Ornithological Survey carried out before the war by the British Museum and Colombo Museum in collaboration, and I am of opinion that it should be recognized by the division of Ceylon birds into two races, which will stand as races of the Black-headed Babbler (*Rhopocichla atriceps*) from the Western Ghats of India.

There is nothing to show which form Blyth had before him when he described his *Alcippe nigrifrons*, J. A. S. B. vol. xviii. 1849, p. 815.—Ceylon. His specimen came from Layard, who collected in both the dry and wet zones.

I propose, therefore, to restrict this type-locality to Uragaha, near the boundary of the Western and Southern Provinces, and use the name for the richly coloured bird of the low country wet zone. For the dry country and hill form I propose the name :—

***Rhopocichla atriceps siccatus*, subsp. nov.**

*Description.*—Similar to *R. a. nigrifrons*, but the fulvous-brown of the upper parts, wings, and tail is olivaceous-fulvous instead of a more saturated rusty fulvous, and the brown of the lower flanks, vent, and under tail-coverts is olivaceous-brown as compared with earth-brown.

*Distribution.*—Ceylon : Hill zone and low country dry zones. Common and generally distributed.

*Type.*—Female. Deposited in the British Museum, no. 1064, Ceylon Avifaunal Survey; Kalaweva, North Central Province, Ceylon.

*Measurements of type.*—Bill 15, wing 59, tail 45 mm.

**White Wagtail off Rockall.**

Mr. W. E. GLEGG sent the following note :—

At a meeting of the Club, held on October 18, 1941, Miss E. P. Leach stated that a White Wagtail (*Motacilla a. alba*), ringed in Iceland on June 16, 1928, was reported by Mr. P. Skovgaard as having been found off Rockall on September 5 of the same year, but that no details of the capture are available.

The story of this interesting recovery is as follows. I received from my brother, who lives in Aberdeen, a letter dated September 5, 1928, enclosing a ring, which had been